

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1431

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007

DE-FORESTATION

Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per assessment made by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), 13 million hectares of World's Forests are lost due to de-forestation every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the area of forests lost in the country every year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such large scale de-forestation in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir. As per the assessment made by the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) presented in 'Global Forest Resource Assessment (GFRA), 2005' the global deforestation rate was estimated at 13 million hectares per year during the period 1990-2005.

(b) The 10 countries with largest annual net loss in forest area during 1990-2005 are listed below:

Country	Annual Change ('000ha/yr)	
	1999-2000	2000-2005
Brazil	-2,681	-3,103
Indonesia	-1,872	-1,871
Sudan	-589	-589
Myanmar	-466	-466
Zambia	-445	-445
United Republic of Tanzania	-412	-412
Nigeria	-410	-410
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-532	-319
Zimbabwe	-313	-313
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	-288	-288

Region/Sub region wise changes in forest cover during 1990-2005 are given in the table below:

Region/Subregion	Annual Change ('000 ha/yr)	
	1999-2000	2000-2005
Eastern and Southern Africa	-1,731	-1,702
Northern Africa	-1,013	-982
Western and Central Africa	-1,631	-1,356
Total Africa	-4,375	-4,040
East Asia	1,751	3,840
South and Southeast Asia	-2,578	-2,851
Western and Central Asia	34	14
Total Asia	-792	1,003
Total Europe	877	661
Caribbean	36	54
Central America	-380	-285
North America	17	-101
Total North and Central America	-328	-333
Total Oceania	-448	-356
Total South America	-3,802	-4,251

World -8,868 -7,317

It can be seen that in some regions/sub regions of the world, the forest cover has increased which includes European countries as well as East Asia.

(c) As per the FAO's report our country has not lost the forest cover during 1990-2005. The gain in forest cover estimated by the FAO during 1900-2000 was 362,000 ha per year and during 2000-2005, 29,000 ha per year.

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) is carrying out biennial assessment of forest cover of the country and state wise forest cover and the changes published in SFR 2001 and 2003 are reproduced as below:

Statewise Forest Cover in 2001 and in 2003 along with the Change

State/UT	2001 Assessment	2003 Assessment	Change
Andhra Pradesh	44,637	44,419	-218
Arunachal Pradesh	68,045	68,019	-26
Assam	27,714	27,826	112
Bihar	5,720	5,558	-162
Chhattisgarh	56,448	55,998	-450
Delhi	111	170	59
Goa	2,095	2,156	61
Gujarat	15,152	14,946	-206
Haryana	1,754	1,517	-237
Himachal Pradesh	14,360	14,353	-7
Jammu & Kashmir	21,237	21,267	30
Jharkhand	22,637	22,716	79
Karnataka	36,991	36,449	-542
Kerala	15,560	15,577	17
Madhya Pradesh	77,265	76,429	-836
Maharashtra	47,482	46,865	-617
Manipur	16,926	17,219	293
Meghalaya	15,584	16,839	1,255
Mizoram	17,494	18,430	936
Nagaland	13,345	13,609	264
Orissa	48,838	48,366	-472
Punjab	2,432	1,580	-852
Rajasthan	16,367	15,826	-541
Sikkim	3,193	3,262	69
Tamilnadu	21,482	22,643	1,161
Tripura	7,065	8,093	1,028
Uttar Pradesh	13,746	14,118	372
Uttaranchal	23,938	24,465	527
West Bengal	10,693	12,343	1,650
Andaman & Nicobar	6,930	6,964	34
Chandigarh	9	15	6
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	219	225	6
Daman & Diu	6	8	2
Lakshdweep	27	23	-4
Pondicherry	36	40	4
Total	675,538	678,333	2,795

It can be seen that there is a net gain of forest cover of 2,79,500 ha during 2001-2003. The figure does not tally with the FAO figure because of difference in period and methodology followed.

(d) The Government of India is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agencies (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level, Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS) for the protection of forests and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger & Project Elephant for wildlife conservation in particular.